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INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet OB: Cottbus, Lübben, Zossen-Winsdorf
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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GRADING OF SOURCE

1. Cottbus (A57), 16-20 May

- a. An interpreter for the Russians in Cottbus states that Soviet families are to be returned to the USSR in the immediate future.
- b. Hermann Löns Kaserne - No change in the strength of tank troops. The barracks are still occupied by 800-1,000 men who appear to be attached to the unit located in the Sachsendorf Kaserne. A destroyed group of buildings has been repaired since February.

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- c. Sachsendorf Kaserne - Still occupied by 600-800 tank troops equipped with approximately eighty T-34/85 and JS-1 tanks. A barracks workman stated that this unit has joined with German paramilitary police in tank maneuvers recently held in the woods around Cottbus.

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- d. Funker Kaserne - Tank and artillery troops, the latter recently increased by about 300 men, bringing total artillery unit strength up to 800 men.*** Artillery drills are held on the airfield, where there are eight 85 mm AA guns on four-wheel trailers. These were sighted on low-flying biplanes, the gun crews consisting of a non-commissioned officer and five enlisted men. Other groups trained with the 7.62 mm MG 43.

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2. Lübben (A28), 20 May

- a. A group of barracks near the Bahnhof is occupied by approximately 3,000 tank troops, of whom approximately one-third seem to be recruits. A barracks workman claims that sheds contain some 80-100 T-34/85 and JS tanks.
- b. Another barracks near the former Wehrmacht hospital is occupied by approximately 1,000 artillerymen, 400 of them being recruits. The weapons and equipment of this unit are stored in barracks sheds near the Bahnhof.

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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Next Review Date: 2008.

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3. Zossen-Winsdorf (291), 1-20 May

██████████ preparing a more detailed report on this area and meantime provides the following notes made by a local resident during the period indicated:

a. A large scale exercise took place at the Winsdorf training grounds on 16 May, Colonel Hermokhov commanding**** in which approximately 800 rifle troops, twenty-four T-34 and three JS type tanks participated. Vehicle series: ██████████

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b. A communications unit, formerly stationed in the Leninplatz, Zossen, was transferred to Potsdam on 14 May.

c. No increase in strength has been noted since the arrival of recruits in February. There have been some recent night alerts followed by short night drills.

d. Since early May there has been an increase in the construction of barracks in Zossen, Winsdorf, Rehagen, Clausdorf, Kurmersdorf, and Sperenberg. Some barracks are being repaired, some new ones are being constructed. The SMA cancelled all private contracts with German firms. Building material is delivered from Luckenwalde by the Soviet bureau KETSCH.

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e. Vehicles in Winsdorf sheds: ██████████

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* Comment: Similar removals are in store for families in the Dresden-Leipzig area, according to a report from another source dated from Riesa on 16 May.

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** Washington Comment: ██████████ better qualified because of position and professional experience. ██████████ stated in ██████████ that the paramilitary police would not, even at the end of the proposed training period, be qualified for combat cooperation with supporting arms such as armor. It is quite possible that the barracks workman confused training in rear echelon guard duties with tank maneuvers.

* Comment: The same source earlier reported the garrison at Funker Kaserne as consisting of 600 tank and 400 artillery troops. ██████████

**** Comment: Generally carried as Genmajor Yernakhov.

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